

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 860

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sandra Kay Stewart  
Murphy of Maryville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Sandra Kay “Sandy” Stewart Murphy; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Sandy Murphy was born March 7, 1943, and graduated from Maryville High School before attending George Peabody College, from which she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Murphy later earned her Master of Music degree from the University of Tennessee, and studied at the Royal School of Church Music in Croydon, England; and

WHEREAS, Sandy Murphy possessed a deep and abiding love for music, especially church music. This talented woman served as the organist and choirmaster of Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church for forty years, during which time she also taught in the day school, directed the parish choir, the children’s choir, and the handbell choir, and arranged the church’s flowers on Sundays and on special occasions; and

WHEREAS, she also directed the church’s many productions, including the Madrigal Dinners, Advent Lessons and Carols, the Garden Fete, and the Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival; and

WHEREAS, under Ms. Murphy’s expert tutelage, the parish choir performed in a number of places, including the Washington Cathedral, the Bruton Parish in Williamsburg, and Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome, Italy; and

WHEREAS, Sandy Murphy was also responsible for the music of the installations of Bishop Robert Tharp and Bishop Charles von Rosenberg, and was chosen by Bishop Tharp to represent the East Tennessee diocese at the first national leadership conference for musicians at the Virginia Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Murphy also passed her love of music on to many young Maryvillians. She taught piano for more than forty-five years and rendered sterling service as the executive director of the Evelyn Miller Young Pianist Series; and

WHEREAS, she was also a valued member of the American Guild of Organists, the Association of Anglican Musicians, and Sigma Alpha Iota; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Murphy was deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Sandy Murphy will be deeply missed by her parents, Jack and Kathleen Stewart, her daughter and son-in-law, Melisa Murphy Rotton and Jeffrey Conner Rotton, and her grandchildren, Kaitlyn Murphy Rotton and Preston Stewart Connor Rotton; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Murphy leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sandra Kay Stewart Murphy, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Murphy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.